

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for permitting offline playback of a content file on a user
2 computing device upon offline verification of the terms of a license for authorizing the
3 playback of the content file, the method comprising:

4 identifying the license by using one or more information fields within
5 header;

6 verifying the terms of the license locally on the user computing device
7 while the user is offline;

8 retrieving from the license, a session key for decrypting the content file;

9 retrieving from the license, a segment which is part of the content file;

10 decrypting the content file using the session key to permit playback of the
11 content file for a single session; and

12 combining the segment with the content file to permit playback of the
13 content file.

1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising

2 receiving the content file and the license from one or more server
3 computing systems.

1 3. The method of claim 2 further comprising

2 separating the segment from the content file prior to the step of receiving
3 the content file and the license.

1 4. The method of claim 2 further comprising

2 combining the segment with the license prior to the step of receiving the
3 content file and the license.

1 5. The method of claim 2 further comprising

2 binding the license to the user computing device so that the content file is
3 playable only on the user computing device prior to the step of receiving the content file
4 and the license.

1 6. The method of claim 1 further comprising

2 substituting the segment with the header in the content file prior to the step
3 of receiving the content file and the license.

1 7. A method for permitting offline license verification, and for

2 enabling playback of a content file on a user computing device, the method comprising:

receiving the content file from a computing system communicatively coupled to the user computing device;

receiving the license from a computing system communicatively coupled to the user computing device;

optionally, storing both the content file and license within the user computing device to enable future playback of the content file;

retrieving the content file having a header containing one or more information fields;

identifying the license by using the one or more information fields within header;

verifying the terms of the license locally on the user computing device while the user is offline;

retrieving from the license, a session key for decrypting the content file;

retrieving from the license, a segment which is part of the content file;

decrypting the content file using the session key to permit playback for a single session; and

combining the segment with the content file to permit playback.

8. The method of claim 7 further comprising
separating the first segment from the content file prior to the step of
receiving the content file from a computing system.

9. The method of claim 7 further comprising combining the first segment with the license prior to the step of receiving the license from a computing system.

10. A system for managing rights to a content file within a computer network, and to permit offline verification of a license for authorizing playback the content file offline, the system comprising:

- a key for decrypting the content file;
- a first content portion which is part of the content file;
- a license for decrypting the content file, the license containing both the key and the first content portion;
- a first computer system for generating the content file, the first computer system further comprising,

15 software containing one or more instructions for identifying the
16 license using the header;
17 software containing one or more instructions for verifying the
18 terms of the license locally on the second computer system while the user is offline;
19 software containing one or more instructions for decrypting the
20 content file using the key, to permit playback of the content file while the user is offline;
21 and
22 software containing one or more instructions for combining the
23 first content portion with the content file to permit playback of the content file.

1 12. The system of claim 11 wherein the header contains one or more
2 information fields for identifying the license.

1 13. The system of claim 11 wherein the first computer system has
2 software containing one of more instructions for creating the header.

1 14. The system of claim 11 wherein the first computer system has
2 software containing one or more instructions for generating the key.